

The BEEHIVE

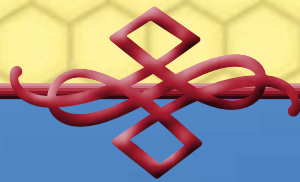
November 24, 2014 — February 23, 2015 Issue



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DEDICATED *to the* LORD

The dedication of the Phoenix Temple on November 16, brings the total number of temples in Arizona to five. Worldwide, the Phoenix Temple is the 144th operating temple.



Photo by Dave Simonson



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DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS
 The Beehive is distributed in several local LDS businesses throughout the valley. For a complete listing of where you can pick up a FREE copy of The Beehive, please visit www.ArizonaBeehive.com and click on "Distribution." You may also read an entire issue of The Beehive online on our website under the "Issue Archives" section.

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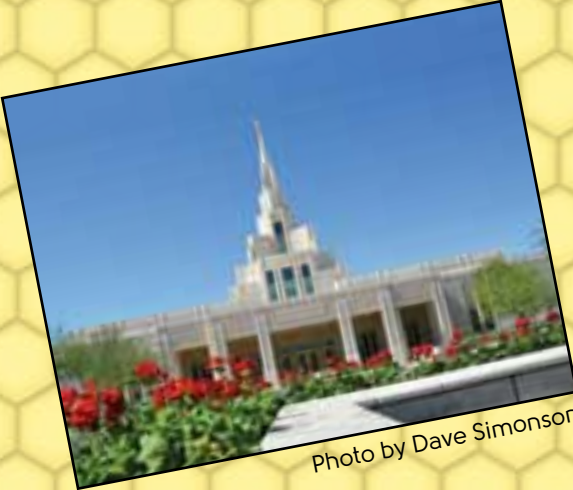


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Phoenix Arizona Temple DEDICATED to the LORD

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Arizona Latter-day Saints joined in a sacred event of praise and celebration, reverently watching from locations across the state as the Phoenix Arizona Temple was dedicated in three sessions Sunday, November 16, 2014, making it the fifth operating temple in Arizona, the 144th in the world.

The day before, on Saturday, November 15, approximately 4,300 Young Men and Young Women from the temple district participated

in a cultural celebration, sharing their testimonies and excitement about the temple through music and dance.

The dedication and cultural event were preceded by a public-invited open house, held Friday, October 10 through Saturday, November 1, which allowed thousands to tour the temple and not only see the fine workmanship, but understand more about the purpose of temples.

"They are the most sacred buildings we have. We believe them to be

the house of the Lord," said Elder Kent F. Richards, Executive Director of the Temple Department, during a special tour at the Phoenix Temple.

"They are built to the needs of the area and using the finest craftsmanship possible," he said.

For the Phoenix Temple, that fine craftsmanship began with a beautiful design by CCBG Architects, Inc., The single-story, 27,423 square foot building has a full basement and an 89-foot, multi-faceted spire. The exterior inte-

gral-colored precast concrete bears an aloe stalk and desert tree leaf motif.

Inside, that same motif is seen throughout, including in laser-cut patterns in some of the dark wood. The carvings and all the other woodwork in the temple was by Western Millwork, a Phoenix-based company. Robert McKee, project manager, said no one in his company is LDS. He and his crew felt honored to work on

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Photo by Dave Simonson

During the public-invited open house, the thousands of visitors who toured the Phoenix Temple were able to witness the beautiful craftsmanship and artwork, learn more about the purpose of temples and feel the spirit of peace found in the temple.



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the temple. "You run into a project like this once in a lifetime. You just don't see buildings like this, with such beautiful design."

Members in the area appreciate the beauty and see other reasons as well for rejoicing at having a temple so near.

Diane Broderick, of the West Wing Ward, Peoria North Stake, has driven the hour each direction to attend the temple in Mesa once a week for the past year. She takes her mother, Maurine Doyle, who was an ordinance worker in the Mesa Temple for 10 years. Now, Alzheimer's disease has made it hard for her to remember most things. "Yet, the temple is very familiar to her," Diane says. "We do initiatory work and she can comprehend that and remembers it."

Diane says her own comprehension of temple ordinances and the associated blessings has increased. "As I've listened to those ordinances over and over this past year, I've come to appreciate more these amazing, amazing blessings of the temple. It's so incredible and so powerful."

Diane and her husband, John, gathered all of the props for the Cultural Celebration—a huge job, but



Photo by Dave Simonson

U.S. Senator Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and his wife, Cheryl, at left, and Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, at right, tour the Phoenix Temple with Elder Kent F. Richards, center, Executive Director of the Temple Department. During the tour, Governor Brewer called the Phoenix Temple her "home-town temple."

one that allowed them to see the enthusiasm the youth have for the temple.

Their own daughter, Jannell, is 17. "She has a goal of doing baptisms in every temple," says Diane. "That may not be possible with as many temples as there are, but when she does baptisms in the Phoenix Temple, that will be number 35 for her."

Janell and her sister, Joanna, who is 12, both have names to take to the Phoenix Temple for baptism.

"The youth really do love going to the temple. They feel the spirit there, they feel a sense of peace," Diane says.

Diane's nonmember friends could sense that spirit during their open house tour. "When we got to the celestial room, one of them said to me, 'It feels so peaceful. Do you feel this every time you come? No wonder you want to come.'"

To have that spirit so readily available will be a great blessing

to people in the Phoenix Temple district, says Jim Allen. Born and raised in Phoenix, he served as the Paradise Valley Stake President from 1981 to 1991, and he and his wife, Shirlyn, still reside in the stake.

"Having a temple in Phoenix is a very good thing. There are parts of the Valley that aren't wealthy, and many retirement areas, so with the long trip and the cost of gas, going to Mesa has been a challenge."

"Now, people will attend more often. Lots of people will reactivate their recommends and go," he says.

President Allen has strong ties to the history and growth of the Church in the Phoenix area, particularly as it relates to the temple. His father, Nephi S. Allen, now 96, and his mother, Marjorie, served as the president and matron of the Mesa Temple from 1988 to 1991.

"I can remember when I was young, we knew everyone who was a member of the Church in the entire Valley," he says.

He remembers, too, the association he had with his grandfather,

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Phoenix Arizona Temple
Continued from pg. 3

James Robert Price, who was known as JR.

In 1918, when the first church building in Phoenix, at Seventh Street and Monroe, was dedicated, JR Price was sustained as the first Phoenix bishop: and, in 1938, when the Maricopa Stake was split, he was sustained as the first Phoenix Stake president.

The area once presided over by President Price, plus a few outlying areas, now makes up the Phoenix Temple district with 16 stakes in Phoenix, Glendale, Surprise, Peoria, Buckeye, Goodyear, Deer Valley, Cottonwood and Prescott.

President Price was released in 1947, after 20 years as a stake president. From 1960 to 1963, he served as the Mesa Temple president.

President Allen remembers, "It was 17 and the oldest grandson in the Phoenix area. He came to me and said, 'Jimmy, drive us to see all the temples.' We drove to St. George, Manti, Salt Lake, Idaho, and he spent hours at each one, talking about how things were to be done in the temple."

It meant a great deal to President Allen to have his grandfather officiate when his wife was sealed to her parents. "He was my hero. He taught me to love the temple and that

love has never wavered."

"A temple is a special place," says President Allen. "There is no other place like it in the world."

Lynn Maxfield, of the Peoria Ward, Peoria Stake, agrees. She and her husband, Mike have served as ordinance workers in the Mesa Temple for the past 11 years.

"I've had a love for the temple ever since I was converted to the Church," she says. That was in 1974, but, because Mike wasn't ready for baptism, she waited and wasn't baptized until 1977, "and then I waited some more," she says.

Mike ultimately was baptized in 1984. "One year and one day later, we were sealed in the temple." Since then, her love for the temple and her commitment to attend regularly has grown.

"It's hard to list all the blessings. Most of all, regular temple attendance brings the gift of peace. Attend one time a week and your gift will be peace, I can testify of that. I have experienced it."

Elder Todd B. Hansen, Area Seventy, says, "It's wonderful to have this temple in Phoenix. We invite members to come and partake, to come and step on holy ground, to come and drink deeply of the waters."

President Monson Dedicates Phoenix Temple & Presides Over Cultural Celebration



Photo by Dave Simonson

President Thomas S. Monson and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf greet the gathering after placing mortar during the cornerstone celebration prior to the dedication of the Phoenix Arizona Temple.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

President Thomas S. Monson directed the cornerstone ceremony and dedicated the Phoenix Temple in the first session Sunday, November 16 and presided over the cultural celebration Saturday, November 15. He was joined by President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, second counselor

in the First Presidency, Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Elders Richard J. Maynes and Lynn G. Robbins, of the Presidency of the Seventy.

The cultural celebration, themed "Be a Light," featured 4,300 youth

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FAMILYSEARCH

keeps getting better & easier to use

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

FamilySearch.org has transformed genealogy research, recordkeeping, and the sharing of family memories. The site publishes 1.1 million searchable names per day. This means information that wasn't available last week, might be found today.

Yet, "in the worldwide membership of the Church, 51 percent of adults currently do not have both parents in the Family Tree section of the Church's FamilySearch Internet site. Sixty-five percent of adults do not have all four grandparents listed," said Elder Quentin L. Cook, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, in April General Conference.

FamilySearch CEO, Dennis Brim-

hall, presenting the keynote address at the 3rd Annual Family History Conference, held at the Arizona State University Institute in October, wondered aloud why members of the Church are not using a product that they are paying for with their tithing funds.

The technology (FamilySearch FamilyTree) is readily available and becoming more user-friendly all the time.

Family Tree patrons will notice new features as FamilySearch continues its quest to improve its product, so users can find their ancestors faster and easier.

For example, in Family Tree, when you click on a person's name and their



Photo by Wayne Van Kirk

At the Family History Conference held at ASU Institute in October, participants attended various workshops and learned from keynote speaker, FamilySearch CEO, Dennis Brimhall, who shared details and tips about the latest improvements to the FamilySearch site.

detail page comes up, on the right sidebar you can find "Record Hints." Clicking on the census or other record links, a user is led to even more family members' names that can be added to the tree and submitted for temple work.

When FamilySearch users view their family, they now have multiple ways to do so beyond the traditional pedigree or fan chart view. A "Portrait" view, as its name implies; shows a pedigree in photos.

Continued on pg. 9



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President Monson Continued from pg. 5

who, through narration, song and dance, portrayed the Church's history in Arizona, paying tribute to early Hohokam and Hispanic influences, the military and the LDS culture of talent and service. President Uchtdorf told the youth, "You are indeed choice. You are children of the light."

For the cornerstone ceremony, President Monson and the General Authorities and their wives placed mortar on the cornerstone, signifying Jesus Christ "is the chief cornerstone in our Church," said Kent F. Richards, executive director of the Temple Department.

The temple was then dedicated with thousands watching as three dedicatory sessions were broadcast via satellite feed to chapels across Arizona.

Beehive Sales Executive Leaves to *Pursue Dream* of Sharing Her Music

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Born and raised in Mesa, Linda Leavitt (now Hartmann) wrote and composed her first song in 1979. Then just hours later, at her own farewell before leaving to serve an LDS mission in Atlanta, Georgia, Linda played while Lynette Carling sang, "I'll Find You My Friend."

Now, after helping establish The Beehive Newspaper in Arizona and working 20 years as Regional Sales Executive to make it what it is today, Linda is returning to her music, committed to sharing messages of faith and testimony around the world.

Already, her first song has been sung at countless missionary farewells, has touched thousands of lives and been translated into 22 languages. In 1985, George Dyer and Tina Brunsdale Wright recorded Linda's albums, including "I'll Find You My Friend."

Along with this powerful, well-known missionary song, Linda has written 70 other missionary songs, as well as patriotic and faith-promoting numbers, funeral songs and more, all soon to be available for widespread distribution.

She understands this new venture will be much like starting with The Beehive.

In 1991, while living in Las Vegas, Linda was hired as a sales representative for Nevada's Beehive Newspaper. Her professionalism allowed The Beehive to increase its coverage and distribution almost immediately, says publisher Russell Taylor.

In 1993, Linda proposed bringing "the good news newspaper" to Arizona.

Linda says, "I told Russell, 'I know I can make it work,' and he believed in me."

In October 1993, 5,000 copies of a small, 12-page, black and white publication rolled off the presses for distribution in 10 locations in Arizona. Today, The Beehive is the largest regional LDS newspaper in the country.

"The sole reason there is a Beehive Newspaper in Arizona is because of Linda Leavitt Hartmann," Russell Taylor notes. "She was able to make an LDS newspaper work in a state that had seen at least four other newspapers fail. She is truly a special person who the entire Taylor family, as well as The Beehive family, owes a huge debt of gratitude."

"I have absolutely loved selling and working with people," says Linda. "I get letters about people joining the Church because of The Beehive

or thanking me for something they've read or seen in the paper. It's been very rewarding in that way."

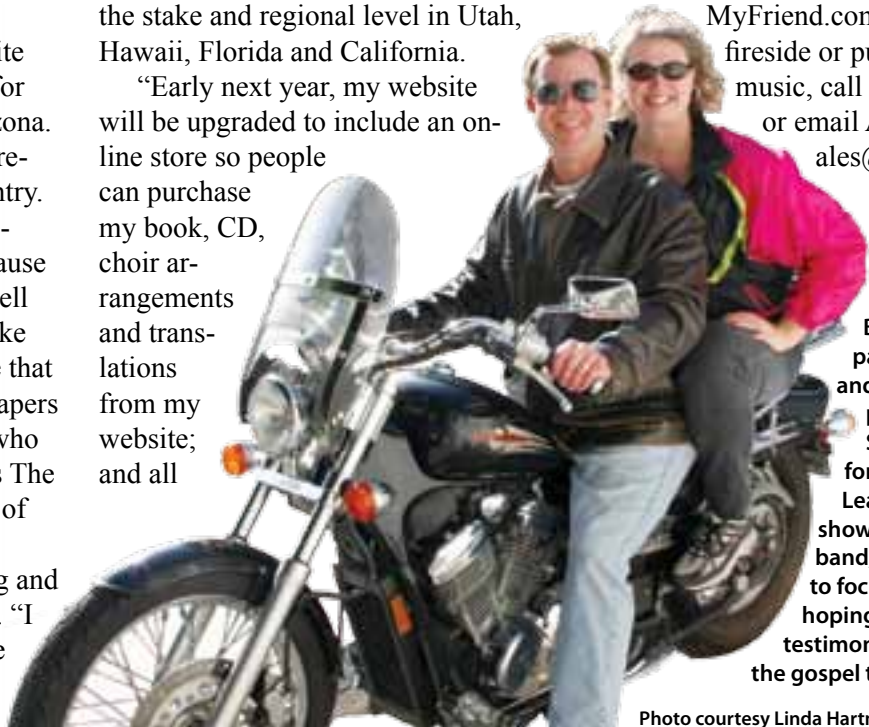
Over the years, Linda has served in the Special Needs program, as Relief Society president and in various other callings and has played the piano for numerous funerals and other meetings. Linda has traveled across the United States to share her missionary musical fireside, "Miracles, Music, Missions and More" all over Arizona and on the stake and regional level in Utah, Hawaii, Florida and California.

"Early next year, my website will be upgraded to include an on-line store so people can purchase my book, CD, choir arrangements and translations from my website; and all

my recorded songs will be available on iTunes."

Linda adds, "This 20 years with The Beehive has been amazing, and I am ready to move on to my dream. My music has changed my life, and I am thankful Heavenly Father has used me as an instrument in His hands to be able to compose and publish it."

For more about Linda's music, including the story behind "I'll Find You My Friend," visit www.IllFindYouMyFriend.com. To schedule a fireside or purchase Linda's music, call 480-844-9328 or email AzBeehiveSales@gmail.com.



After helping establish The Beehive Newspaper in Arizona and working as the paper's Regional Sales Executive for 20 years, Linda Leavitt Hartmann, shown with her husband, Steve, is leaving to focus on her music, hoping to share faith and testimony and to spread the gospel through her songs.

Photo courtesy Linda Hartmann

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Family Search Continued from pg. 6

The “Descendancy” view provides a look at family lines from the top down, so an ancestor’s descendants can be seen in one glance. These different views can be accessed in Family Tree on the upper left side of the page.

Now, in addition to using FamilySearch on home computers, free mobile apps allow Smartphone users to access FamilySearch on the go, meaning they can learn something new about their

family while in line at the grocery store, at the doctor’s office, or during half-time at a child’s soccer game. Imagine taking the Family Tree app on a cemetery visit and looking up photos of the ancestors whose graves you find.

There’s also a link to download the new “Memories” mobile app that makes adding photos, stories, and even audio recordings, simple and quick.

Recently the Church announced FamilySearch partnerships with worldwide genealogy leaders Ancestry.com, Find My Past and My Heritage. Latter-

day Saints can create free personal accounts with each of these sites.

For years, Lance Ipson of Mesa had hit a roadblock on one of his mother’s lines. After making systematic searches on these partner sites, checking back often because the databases are updated continually, he was able to find several family trees on My Heritage that contained his Danish ancestors. “I was able to trace my great-grandmother’s line back two generations in Copenhagen, Denmark,” he says.

Log in to Familysearch.org to con-

nect with your family today. In his October General Conference talk, Elder Allan Packer of the Seventy urged everyone to get involved. “Whatever your past perception, [family history] is different now.”

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Further family history help is available at any FamilySearch library (for Mesa: mesarfhc.org) or through ward family history specialists.



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New Temple Presidency Called for the MESA ARIZONA TEMPLE

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

JBrent Hatch, 70, of the Grove 3rd Ward, Chandler East Stake, has been called as president of the Mesa Arizona Temple. President Hatch is the 21st to serve in that capacity and succeeds President R. Gordon Porter.

President Hatch's wife, Ranae Geddes Hatch, has been called as temple matron, succeeding Susan Porter.

President and Sister Hatch have always had a love for the temple and have found frequent temple attendance fills a void that can't be filled in any other way.

"Attending the temple regularly keeps us strongly anchored to Christ, to our covenants, and to one another as husband and wife," President Hatch says.

Born in Ogden, Utah, to Theron and Lucille C. Hatch, President Hatch received bachelor's and master's degrees from Utah State University before moving to Arizona in 1970, where he was employed by Mesa Public School District for 34 years.

President Hatch was serving as a counselor in the temple presidency. He has served as an ordinance worker, counselor to two mission presidents,

stake president and high councilor in the Chandler Alma Stake and bishop of Alma 1st Ward. The Hatches served a couples mission in the Arizona Tempe Mission.

Sister Hatch was serving as assistant to the matron. She previously served as a temple ordinance worker, stake young single adult leader, ward Relief Society president and counselor in stake and ward Primary presidencies.

Sister Hatch was born in Logan, Utah, to Grant and Verna Geddes. She and President Hatch have five children and nine grandchildren.

Robert H. Cochran has been called as first counselor in the temple presidency and his wife, Linda K. Kemppel Cochran, as assistant to the matron.

Brother Cochran was born in Barberton, Ohio, and raised in Akron. He and Sister Cochran have lived in Mesa 37 years and currently reside in the Parkcrest Ward, Citrus Heights Stake.

He has served several times as a high councilor, in several bishoprics, and has been a bishop, high priests group leader, stake mission president and counselor to two stake presidents.

Sister Cochran was born and raised

in Akron, Ohio. A convert to the Church, she was baptized in the Akron Ward when she was 19.

She has served as nursery leader, Primary president, Relief Society president, Beehive advisor, ward missionary and counselor in stake Primary, Relief Society and Young Women organizations.

The Cochrans have four children and 13 grandchildren, with one on the way.

Arthur L. Meacham has been called as second counselor to President Hatch. His wife, Janet, is assistant to the matron.

Brother Meacham was born in Virginia and raised in Southern California. Sister Meacham was born in Arizona and raised in Southeastern Idaho. They met at Brigham Young University,

were married in the Salt Lake Temple, and moved to Mesa in 1975. Brother Meacham taught Seminary and Institute for 38 years in Mesa, Tempe and Scottsdale and eventually became the Tempe Institute Director. He also was a volunteer Institute instructor at the Florence Complex of the Arizona Department of Corrections for approximately four years. He has had several callings as a teacher and served as bishop, in a bishopric and on the high council.

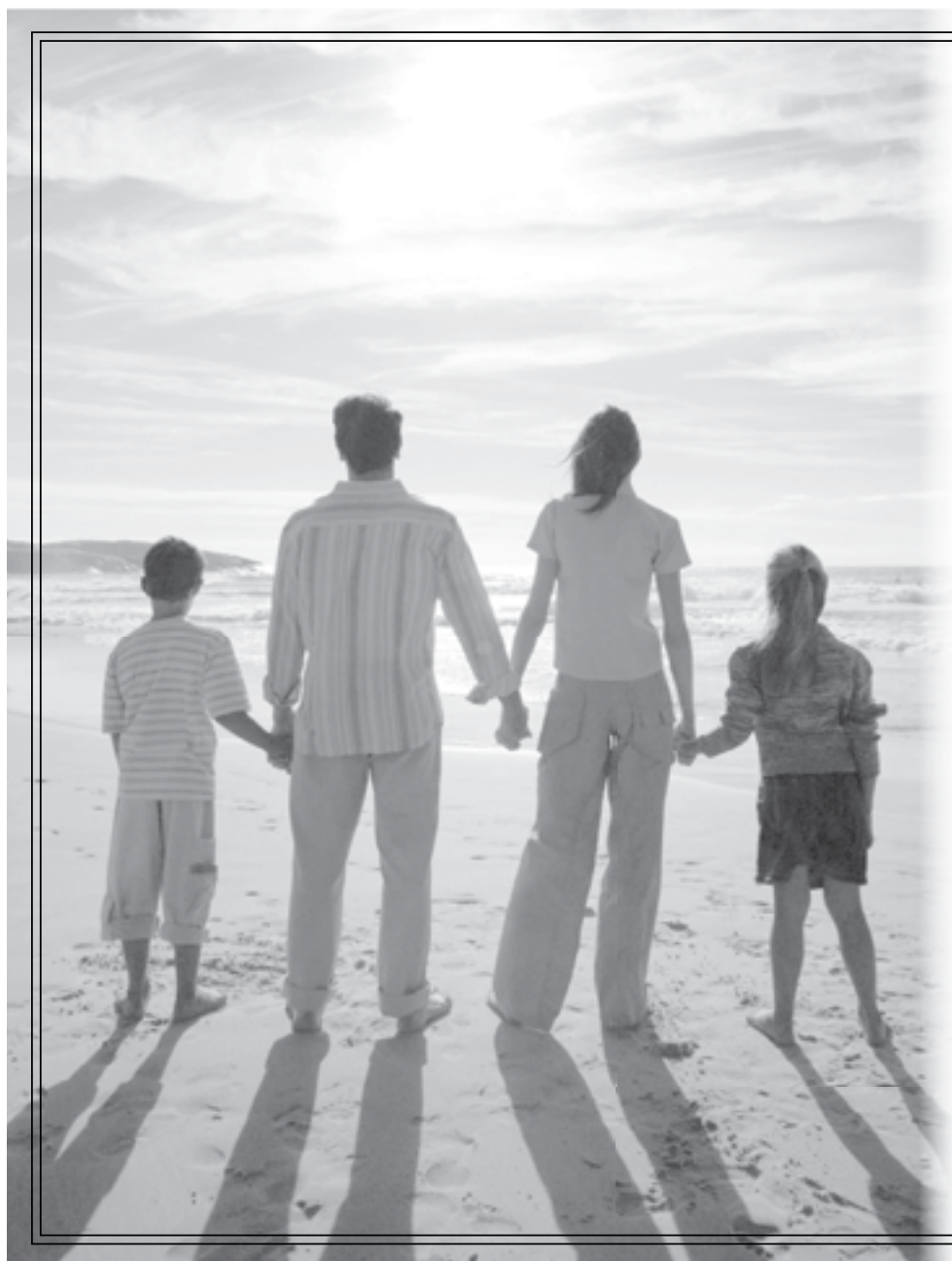
Sister Meacham has served as a

Continued on pg. 16



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Beginning their service November 1 as the new Mesa Arizona Temple presidency are (l to r) Linda K. Cochran, assistant to the matron; Robert H. Cochran, first counselor; Ranae Hatch, matron; President J. Brent Hatch, temple president; Arthur L. Meacham, second counselor and Janet Meacham, assistant to the matron.



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Former Mesa Temple Presidents Visit the Phoenix Temple

By Ceciy Markland
The Beehive

Kim Allen, a member of the Sierra Vista Ward, Glendale North Stake, calls it a “happy accident” when, during the Phoenix Temple Open House she captured a rare and historic moment.

“I happened to be at the temple with my camera when six of the former Mesa Temple presidents were completing their special invitation temple tour,” Kim says.

“I was actually just there to snap a quick photo of my husband’s grandparents [Marjorie and Nephi Allen] who were included in that bunch,” she says.

Also in the group with the Allens that day were R. Gordon Porter and his wife, Susan, who served as the Mesa Temple president and matron beginning in 2011 and were just released Nov. 1. Shortly after he was called as temple president, in an interview with The Beehive, President Porter said he considered it “a sacred and trusted calling.”

“Temple work is vital work. It’s wonderful work,” he says.

The two who served just prior to President Porter were also in the group. A former General Authority (member

of the Second Quorum of the Seventy), President Daryl H. Garn served as temple president from 2009 to 2011, with his late wife, Irene, who died in July 2013. President Russell S. Gilliland and his wife, Karen, now serving as the first president and matron of the Phoenix Temple, served with the Garns, President Gilliland as second counselor in the Mesa Temple presidency and Sister Gilliland as assistant to the matron.

President Ezra T. Clark, Jr., and his wife, Virginia, served before that, from 2006 to 2009.

President Clark was the Mesa Temple president when President Thomas S. Monson announced three new temples would be built in Arizona, one in southeast Gilbert, one in the Gila Valley and one in Phoenix. President Clark was quoted at that time, saying he was confident great blessings would come to the people of Arizona as those temples were built.

“Bringing temples closer to the people allows more of them to participate in the magnificent blessings that are there,” he said. “Many very sacred and spiritual things will occur.”

Also part of the group was Janette

Toolson, accompanying her father, John R. Peterson. President Peterson and his wife, Marcia Jorgensen Peterson, served as temple president and matron from 2000 to 2003. Sister Peterson passed away in Mesa in February 2008.

In addition, participating in the Phoenix Temple tour was Bertha “Bobbie” Tanner.

Sister Tanner served as matron of the Mesa Temple with her husband, President John Henry Tanner from 1991 to 1994. President Tanner passed away in October 2009.

The remaining two members of the group, and the ones Kim Allen actually intended to photograph, are Marjorie and Nephi S. Allen. Nephi, now 97,

served as temple president and Sister Allen as matron from 1988 to 1991.

The Allens and their families have



Photo by Kim Allen

It was an historic gathering as several former Mesa Temple presidents toured the Phoenix Temple together, including, back row, (l to r) President Daryl H. Garn and his wife, Shawna; Janette Toolson with her father President John Peterson; Virginia and President Ezra Clark; Susan and President R. Gordon Porter; and front row (l to r) Bertha Tanner, President Nephi Allen and his wife Marjorie.

Continued on pg. 16

Life brings change, but families are *forever*

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Tips for Dealing with Aging Parents with Dementia or Alzheimer's

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Having made an often highly emotional decision to do so, many families face the challenges of providing care in their home for aging parents with dementia and memory issues.

Susan Knight, of Midvale East Stake in Utah, worked as an administrative assistant in a memory care community in Bucks County, PA. She says, "It's so sad to see your loved one diminish, but that is what they are doing. Compare it to an infant that slowly learns dexterity, how to eat solid food, how to sit up, how to walk, how to talk. Now, with dementia, they are slowly un-learning these things, almost in that order. Imagine the frustration of a young child who can't communicate their needs and wants. Then imagine your loved one."

"When my grandmother had dementia, and became as a little child, the scripture 'Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.' Matthew 18:1, always came to mind. My grandmother had become as a little child. I have no doubt she entered quickly into heaven," says Sister Knight.

Vicky Burkinshaw, of Citrus Heights Stake, moved her parents into an extension of her home when her father was in the last stages of Alzheimer's. Although her mother was the main caregiver, Vicky remained involved to relieve the pressure and stress on her mother. She says what works one day, may not work

the next.

Verlayne Richardson, of the Citrus Heights Stake, was the primary caregiver for her husband suffering from Alzheimer's. She says, "I knew he wasn't well, so I didn't expect him to act like others his age. You must think of them more like children because they can't do anything about how their mind is working. If you realize this, it will go better for both of you. Know their limitations and accept them. This will save you from going nutty."

Sisters Burkinshaw, Richardson and Knight share the following tips for dealing with parents with dementia and/or Alzheimer's.

Expectations: You are always on duty, just like with a newborn baby, so you must take time for yourself to rest and refill your physical and emotional well. It is critical to adjust your expectations of the behaviors of your loved one to match the ever-increasing changes.

When Vicky's father was asked, "Do you know you have Alzheimer's?" He paused and then answered, "Yes." He was then asked, "Does it bother you?" After another long pause, he answered, "No, but it drives your mother crazy."

It's Not About You! Aging parents often become angry, frustrated, paranoid or afraid and lash out. Sister Knight suggests repeating "Q-Tip" to yourself often. "Q-TIP! Quit taking it personally! This will help you stay calm and

patient," says Sister Knight.

Laughter: "You laugh or you cry," certainly works when dealing with the diminishing mental abilities of an aging parent," Vicky says. "If you can find the humor in a situation, it removes the stress and embarrassment you may feel."

"At the movies, my father went into the restroom. After about 15 minutes, I asked an usher to check on him. He brought dad out. Dad had stuffed his shirt and pants with all the toilet paper from the stalls. He looked like the Pillsbury Dough Boy. You had to laugh," she says.

Environment: Manipulate the environment to suit aging parents' needs for safety and convenience. Slip on or Velcro-type shoes are needed. Grab bars in the bathroom. No stairs. Edges of rugs taped down. Childproof cabinets and electrical outlets. Keep medicines and cleaning agents locked up, knives put away, knobs on the stove removed.

Decreasing Body Functions: Hearing aids, adult diapers, large print on scriptures, computers and phones for as long as they are mentally able to use them. Get trained on how to shower or bathe them and other hygiene needs. Use a mattress liner and be prepared to wash bedding often. For decreased appetites, smoothies with fruit and vegetables or liquid meals that come in cans are useful and work well with dentures.

Decreasing Mental Ability: "Re-occurring questions are common. Be

patient. Remember ... they can't remember," Vicky says. Dementia patients often forget how to dress so be prepared to dress them. "If my father was too warm, he wouldn't hesitate to disrobe wherever he was. Keep your wits about you. Be prepared. It can be a wild ride," she says.

Medicine: Find a good doctor specializing in dementia or Alzheimer's. Available medications won't reverse the disease, but can slow down the decline. Consider medicines to help level moods and take the edge off their anger, paranoia, anxiety and fears.

Frequent Family Visits: Invite family members to visit with the aging parent and ask questions about their childhood. They will enjoy talking with someone who will validate them by sitting patiently, nodding and smiling. Most important is to ask other extended family members to provide respite by taking the loved one on a weekend or two each month.

Utilizing Resources: Consider hiring a professional to come into the home during certain hours. "Relatives think they can do it on their own, but it's much safer to have someone who is trained to help them," says Sister Knight. Also check into Area Agency on the Aging, Meals on Wheels, Senior Corps, Care Linx, Visiting Angels, etc., for services, training classes and online discussion groups on aging, dementia and Alzheimer's.

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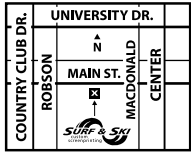
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Deseret Industries Offers a “Thrifty” Way to **SELF-RELIANCE**

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

For more than 75 years, Deseret Industries and its logo with a picture of a honeybee have been synonymous with creating self-reliance.

Dan Holm, store manager for the Mesa Deseret Industries location, adds, “Deseret Industries is more than just a thrift store, we try to help the community by building self-reliance in individuals and providing low cost goods to the public in need.”

When there is a need for new employment or better employment, an individual can be referred to the training program at Deseret Industries through an LDS bishop. At the Mesa location, there are currently approximately 90 people in the program with 15 to 20 more on a waiting list.

Before entering the program, the associates are paired with a development counselor for an interview and initial assessment to determine the associates’ specific job skills and career interests as well as approve any schooling or certificate programs. After being accepted into the program, the associate is assigned a job coach, who works with each person to help them to set and achieve their goals. Part of that process includes attending a career workshop taught through the employment center. The development counselor handles any necessary communication with the bishop in regards to the associate’s training program.

Additionally, the bishop assigns a member of the ward to be a mentor as the associate goes through the training. The mentor can be a home teacher, visiting teacher or other member of the ward who will provide local support. The mentor, associate and development counselor meet quarterly to discuss goals, and in weekly meetings, a job coach assists the associate in meeting a set of industry standards that will assist them in today’s competitive job market.

The program includes on the job

training as well as career guidance. Deseret Industries teams up with local businesses to create internship-type experiences that allow associates to further develop skills and confidence.

Another aspect of the program is technical skills training. The qualified associate can obtain scholarship money to attend specific programs, such as a basic nursing course, IT program or cosmetology training, for example.

Deseret Industries relies on donations from the general public—of clothing, used books, computers, in fact most any donations with the exception of cleaners, chemicals, food storage, weapons, mattresses and appliances.

The donations received not only create job experiences for those in the program but provide low-cost items for sale to the community as well as items used as part of humanitarian efforts worldwide.

In addition to the three Deseret Industries stores in Mesa, Phoenix and Tucson, there are stationary Deseret Industries donation pods around the valley to make donating easier. For access to those pods outside of scheduled pickups, contact your stake or ward welfare specialist for access. With the exception of the Tucson location, donations can be scheduled to be picked up by calling the store nearest you. Deseret Industries accepts donations that many think are not worth re-selling, such as rags and clothes with holes or stains. These items are recycled and proceeds benefit the cost of the training program.

Brother Holm says he hopes member will continue to “use Deseret Industries for donating when possible because of the blessings it provides to the training program ... please donate what you can.”

For more about how you can benefit from Deseret Industries, visit DeseretIndustries.org.



Photo by Stacy Johnson

Dan Holm (r) supervises the Mesa Deseret Industries, where associates, like (l to r) Kayle, Philip and Alecia, are mentored and given opportunities to gain valuable work experience and training.



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The Jones Family Continues to Put Family First

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Family has always been a priority for Mabel and Willard LeRoss (Lee) Jones, members of the Udall Ward, Mesa Stake.

Family was at both ends of Brother Jones' life's work. He bought his father's farm in New Mexico, added land to it, increased production, then, when ready to retire he, in turn, passed the farm to his sons.

He then moved to Mesa, "to work in the temple" and focus on the eternal work of binding families together.

Still, Mabel and Lee will be among the first to admit family life has its share of interesting twists and turns. Their union, in fact, is one even "blended families experts" may scratch their heads over.

Brother Jones was married to Elizabeth Ison for 30 years, and they had happily raised seven children together before she died.

"She had terminal cancer, and she told me, 'I don't want you to stay single. Find a good wife. Go see Mabel.'"

Mabel, then a widow, had been married to Lincoln Ison, Elizabeth's

brother. She bore 12 children, but lost two in infancy.

When Mabel and Lee did get together, it seemed natural and a little strange at the same time.

"Mabel and her husband and me and my first wife and kids had all camped together and gone to the mountains together several times."

"Our kids were very close, but, the kids had been cousins, now they were brothers and sisters. She had been their aunt, and now ..."

"But," Brother Jones quickly says, "we made it work, and we have a very close family."

Their "blended" family includes 17 living children, 96 grandchildren and more than 250 great grandchildren to date. It also includes a legacy of love for the Lord.

"We made the gospel paramount in our lives," Brother Jones says.

He and Mabel served two missions together, one to the Pennsylvania Harrisburg Mission, one to Mexico City, where they worked in the area office training others to do extraction.



Photo courtesy Willard LeRoss Jones

Mabel and Lee Jones (pictured center), shown here with "his side" have blended their families together, keeping their children and grandchildren close with love, consideration and a focus on gospel service.

Among other callings, Brother Jones served as patriarch in three different stakes, including the Mesa Stake. Sister Jones has been a Relief Society, Young Women and Primary president, a teacher, pianist and organist. The first six or seven years of their marriage, while living in New Mexico, they served as temple ordinance workers, driving 200 miles to the Mesa Temple every week.

"It must have had an impression,"

Mabel says. "Our children realized how important the temple was to us, and they all got married in the temple."

The couple has continued regular temple attendance, in recent years, going every Tuesday to do initiatory work, as their health allows.

As involved as they were in Church service, however, "we had Family

Continued on pg. 15

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"Trains in the Garden" Annual Christmas Open House Tours

Featuring 16 private homes with G-Scale garden railroads in their backyards, plus the Cardon Children's Medical Center in Mesa, the Arizona Big Train Operators, a 501C nonprofit organization, will once again hold their "Trains in the Garden" open house tours during two weekends in December.

The homes are located in the Phoenix area, including Mesa, Glendale, Sun Lakes, Chandler, and San Tan Valley. Most of the displays will be open December 13 and 14, and then again

December 20 and 21, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Check www.azbigtrains.org for locations, directions and any special running times of the open house displays. Tax deductible donations are accepted and used to benefit the promotion of Garden Railroading through shows and open houses as well as maintaining the indoor garden railroad at the Cardon Children's Medical Center.

Children of all ages enjoy seeing these unique train layouts, all decked out for the holidays.

Putting Family First Continued from pg. 14



Photo courtesy Willard LeRoss Jones
Mabel and Lee Jones, at his 90th birthday party, find much to celebrate on a daily basis as they are happy to have the gifts of family and of the gospel in their lives.

Home Evenings every week when our children were home," Brother Jones says.

"We filled our home with family pictures, pictures of the Savior, things that radiate love and righteousness," he continues. "We tried to show respect and love for our parents by the lives we

lived, and we tried to impress upon our kids their responsibility to 'Be true to who you are and the family name you bear.'"

They also brought music into their home. Sister Jones taught several of their own children and had as many as 40 other piano students at a time. He played harmonica and accordion, and they often were called on to perform together at ward socials and gatherings.

The Joneses are well aware, "We live with all kinds of evil today."

"Satan is doing everything he can. His plan is to destroy the family," Brother Jones says.

"He's working extra hard right now," Sister Jones agrees.

The Joneses fight back, continuing to have Family Home Evening in their home once a month with their married children who are still in the area.

"We have a spiritual thought, lesson, prayer and each family reports what they are doing and any achievements over the past month," Brother Jones says.

They also use letters, telephone and emails and even learned to use FaceTime to keep in touch with family members.

"Our family is everything to us. Our family is our life," Brother Jones says. "We show love to each other, love and consideration. That's what has held us together."

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This Christmas Season

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Every year during the Christmas season, people waiting in line to mail cards and packages at the Mesa Main Post Office, at 135 N. Center Street, are treated to mini-concerts of cheerful Christmas music.

"We have found cheerful music adds to the spirit of Christmas and lightens the spirits of those waiting in line," says Linda Hartmann.

"For those musicians who wish to participate, I assign a time slot of ½ hour to two hours," Linda says.

"Professional musicians, beginners, and even children's groups participate. They perform free of charge, but always feel rewarded when they are done. Some even volunteer to fill more than one slot."

Past participants include vocal soloists and groups, harpists, pianists, flutists, a capella groups, children groups, violin/piano duets, guitarists and jazz ensembles.

"Small groups, numbering from 1 to 20 people are actually the best," Linda



Photo Courtesy of Linda Leavitt

The Emerson Bell Ringers from Emerson Elementary School in Mesa, with director Jenni Leavitt, were among the performers who played for people waiting in line to mail packages and cards at the Mesa Main Post Office.

says.

An electric piano is provided. Some groups bring background music; others have instruments backing them up.

For the coming season, Linda is scheduling for December 8 through 23 between 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays

through Fridays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

If you are interested in sharing your talent in this way, or if you have talented friends who may be interested, please contact Linda at 480-844-9328 or email azbeehivesales@gmail.com.

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New Temple Presidency

Continued from pg. 10

teacher in all the auxiliaries, a Relief Society president, Young Women counselor and was an early morning Seminary teacher in Southern California for seven years.

The Meachams moved to Southern California in 2004 to help care for his parents. While there, they served as ordinance workers in the Newport Beach Temple. After Brother Meacham retired, they moved back to Mesa in 2014 and currently live in the Beverly Ward, Mesa Maricopa Stake. They have five children and 14 grandchildren.

Former Temple Presidencies

Continued from pg. 11

witnessed and have been a big part of the growth of the Church in the Phoenix area.

President Allen's son, Jim, is currently serving as stake president of the Paradise Valley Stake and his grandson, Daniel, is first counselor in the bishopric of the Sierra Verde Ward, Glendale North Stake.

Sister Marjorie Allen is the daughter of James Robert "JR" Price, who served as the first bishop in Phoenix and was called as the first stake president when the Phoenix Stake was organized in 1938.

Granddaughter-in-law, Kim Allen, says it was President and Sister Allen who instilled in her a love for the temple. "When I got married, he sealed my husband [Daniel] and I. It was a special day and I have fond memories of him sealing us together."

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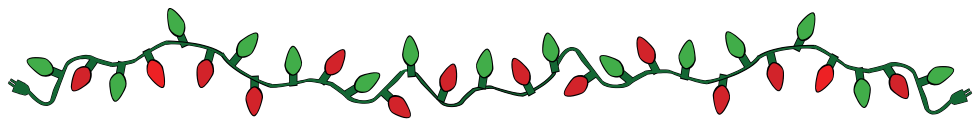
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For the 35th year, Mesa Arizona Temple Light Display Celebrates the Birth of Christ

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Thirty-five years ago, the Mesa Temple grounds were decorated for the Christmas season for the first time, with 5,000 blue lights placed in the trees.

Today, says Christmas lights director, Beckie Jackson, "There are too many lights to count," with thousands of white, blue, gold and multi-colored lights illuminating the tall palm trees and twinkling among the flower gardens.

"We have tried to convey a feeling of sacred elegance. Our goal is to help

visitors feel the special spirit of Christmas brings and help them remember that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World," Beckie says.

Event spokesman Stephen Harms agrees, saying, "The display represents our belief in Christ as our Savior and our desire to proclaim that to the world. Of course people would be drawn to this place that centers on the Savior's divine birth. Coming to the temple grounds to enjoy the lights is one of the finest ways to connect with the meaning of Christmas and to



Photo courtesy Christmas Lights Committee

In this, the 35th anniversary year of the annual lighting of the Mesa Temple Grounds at Christmastime, thousands will again visit the grounds to feel the peace and joy associated with the true meaning of Christmas.

share the peace and joy of the season with loved ones and friends."

For weeks before the lights are turned on, thousands participate in the

outpouring of service it takes to construct the display each year.

Continued on pg. 19

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"It's something like a Christmas miracle, made possible by the wonderful volunteers who willingly do their part," Beckie explains. Volunteers come from Scottsdale to Maricopa, Queen Creek to west Phoenix, in groups of 20 to 50 to help decorate the 50 different designated areas.

Along with the beautiful lighting is a large nativity and shepherds' camp, over which hangs a star made of more than 10,000 LED lights. There, visitors can hear a recording, in Spanish or English, of the First Presidency sharing a Christmas message. Also in the garden area are figures of Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem, of Isaiah who prophesied of Christ's birth, and a spectacular statue of Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, adorning the negative fountain just north of the temple.

Concert performances by musical groups—local church and school choirs, individuals and family groups—presented on the north side of the Visitors' Center, being promptly at 7 p.m. each night from December 1 through 25. Concerts last approximately 30 minutes. Early seating is encouraged.

Inside the Visitors' Center is a display of 75 to 100 nativity sets from approximately 50 countries, as well as the permanent 13-foot marble replica of the original Christus sculpture along with audiovisual presentations, exhibits, films and dioramas. The Visitor's Center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the Christmas lights event.

The lights are illuminated from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. beginning Friday, November 28 through Tuesday, December 31. There is no admission fee and no charge for any of the exhibits.

"This is our gift to the community. Our hope is that all who come will feel peace on the Temple Grounds and will remember the true meaning of Christmas," Beckie says.

The Mesa Arizona Temple and Visitors' Center is located at 525 E. Main Street. For more information or to view the concert schedule, visit www.mesa-christmaslights.com.



2014 Temple Lights Christmas Concerts:

- Dec 1 Resounding Voices
- Dec 2 Tempe Institute Choir
- Dec 3 Greenfield Elementary Hand bell Choir
- Dec 4 Valley Vocal Ensemble
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- Dec 9 Chandler Children's Choir
- Dec 10 Spirit of Phoenix Choir
- Dec 11 Chandler Gilbert Community College Concert Choir
- Dec 12 INSPIRE Chorus
- Dec 13 Duly Noted, Men's Quartet
- Dec 14 The Noble Family
- Dec 15 Mesa High School A Cappella Choir
- Dec 16 Desert Echoes Flute Project
- Dec 17 Mt. View High Chorale
- Dec 18 Red Mountain High Singers
- Dec 19 4 in Accord, Men's Quartet
- Dec 20 The Kidmans, Women's Trio
- Dec 21 East Valley Salon Concerts Chamber Ensemble
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BEST of 2014 MESA

Voices of CHRISTMAS

to Present Free, Christ-centered Concert at Mesa Arts Center

The Voices of Christmas is a free concert, produced, this year, with the help of the Mesa West, Mesa East, Gilbert and Tempe Young Single Adult stakes, and will feature guest artists, Clyde Bawden, Michele Baer, The Riggs Sisters and Bella Musica Bell Choir.



By Cecily Markland & Allison Beckert
 The Beehive

Poster by Rex Sowards

The 11th annual Voices of Christmas concert features an impressive 130-member choir, 40-member orchestra, along with special guests Clyde Bawden, Michele Baer, The Riggs Sisters and Bella Musica Bell Choir. The concert, now presented with combined support of the Mesa West, Mesa East, Gilbert and Tempe Young Single Adult Stakes (YSA), will, for the first time, be held in the prestigious Mesa Arts Center.

This has been the long-time goal of Ted Sowards, who started the choir with his now-brother-in-law, Chris Stapley, hoping to bring Christian carols

back to Christmas.

In 2004, they assembled a choir of 16 and performed free concerts in church buildings. By the ninth year, the choir and audience had outgrown any available church buildings. Last year, with volunteers and help from the YSA stakes, Voices of Christmas secured Gilbert High School for its concert.

Now, Ted says, staging the concert at Mesa Arts Center is the result of "a weary, wonderful journey" and a tribute to the estimated 600 volunteers and 7,000 attendees who have supported past concerts.

Continued on pg. 22

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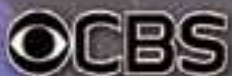
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The Secrets of Survival 3-Book Series

Danell Tarwater, of Chandler, tried for many years to find a good preparedness resource book, one that had enough information to help a family prepare for—and ultimately survive—just about any emergency that came along, whether natural or manmade.

“When I couldn’t find such a book, I decided to write one myself,” she says.

Originally, she wrote for her family. Yet, she says, “The more I wrote, the more requests I got for the material I had gathered.” Ultimately, Danell ended up creating a three-book series called the *S.O.S. Series*.

“This is a valuable, potentially lifesaving series of books that contains the “secrets” you need to survive in immediate crisis situations and for

becoming self-reliant and able to face long-term emergency circumstances as well,” Danell says.

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family food they most enjoy now,” Danell says. This book can be ordered now for Christmas delivery.

Preorders, including special pre-order pricing, are also being taken for *The Secrets of Survival Handbook* and *The Secrets of Survival Health Care Manual*. To place an order or to sign up for publication updates, visit www.TheSecretsofSurvival.com.

Voices of Christmas Continued from pg. 20

“It’s humbling to see so many people get involved over the years, and

we hope it has not only improved their Christ-filled season but who they are all together,” Ted says.

“The intent of Voices of Christmas has always been to bring together the

best talent available and to keep it free so, if you were rich or poor, educated or not, spiritual or investigating, everyone could have an equal chance to feel the real spirit of Christ.”

This has been a challenge, Ted admits, particularly with the size venue required and their high standards of quality and entertainment value.

“This concert is so much more than just a choir singing,” Ted says. “There’s a full orchestra and jumbo screens with live video, video clips featuring the Mesa Temple Lights and Easter Pageant, animated stories, acting and dancing—all made possible by people coming together to make this gift happen.”

“Wrangling a large choir and orchestra of young adult volunteers, all with hectic schedules, is a task unto itself, but many jump at the chance to use their talents in this way. The dedication of these musicians amounts to a

beautiful and heart-stirring evening of sincere song and testimony.”

Ted hopes to see Voices of Christmas continue to grow. “We have worked our way up from ward level to stake level to regional level, hoping someday this joins the ranks of the other annual Valleywide Church events,” Ted says. Like the Easter Pageant and Mesa Temple Christmas Lights, he hopes Voices of Christmas can help “fill the need to have more of a focus on Christ in our community. In a world that is leaving religion behind more and more, we need to provide many opportunities for people to grow closer to Christ and to feel of the Spirit deeper in their lives.”

The 11th annual Voices of Christmas concert starts at 7 p.m. December 18 at the Mesa Arts Center and is free to the public. Visit www.azlds.com for more information.



Photo by Butch Bodine

Young adult volunteers from the four East Valley YSA stakes make up the 130-member choir and the 40-member orchestra that will perform at the 11th annual Voices of Christmas concert this year. The free concert is at the Mesa Arts Center on Dec. 18.



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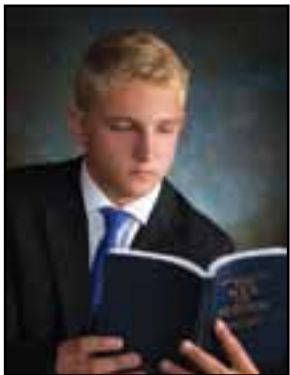
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Family History Mystery Solved While Writing Christmas Romance Novel

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

When Tamara Passey set out to write a Christmas romance, she wasn't thinking about her own family history. Or maybe she was.

Part of the inspiration for her novel was the mystery of her paternal great-grandparents.

Tamara, of Skyline Ward, Mesa Skyline Stake, explains the mystery, saying, "My great-grandparents, George and Susanna, came from Hungary and settled in Baltimore. They spoke German, and we weren't sure why. We had no information about their life before they arrived in America."

For the background story to her novel, titled *The Christmas Tree Keeper*, Tamara created a fictional couple, Hans and Adeline Shafer, who left Germany, came to America, and owned a tree farm in Massachusetts. The novel centers on their great-great-grandson, Mark Shafer, and his decision about the land he is soon to inherit. He wants a career in music, not Christmas trees, and with a buyer willing to pay top dollar for the land, Mark has the fate of the trees in his hands.

While working on revisions, Tamara and her family visited Salt Lake City this summer. Tamara felt she should check the Family History Library one more time to see if any newly added records would aid her search. What she found was a recent two-volume publication that contained the records of all the families in her great-grandparents' village for over 200 years, including five generations of ancestors of both her great-grandfather and grandmother.

Sifting through the names and dates, then spending some more time re-researching the line, Tamara learned her Pless ancestors left Wadern, Germany, in 1793 and settled in Sanktandreas, what would later become Hungary. Then 111 years later, George and Susanna left Hungary and arrived in Baltimore in 1904.

It turns out the fictional Hans and Adeline were a composite of her Pless ancestors who left Germany and her great-grandparents who left Hungary.

"My great-grandfather didn't farm trees, he sold vegetables from a cart in Baltimore," says Tamara. "But I've always believed our ancestor's legacy can bring inspiration and meaning to our lives. To come across the ocean, to start a new life in a strange land takes bravery and determination. To start over after loss tells me he was resilient, as well."

Besides the Shafer family, Tamara's

debut Christmas romance introduces Angela Donovan, who needs a job and rent money, not the pressure of her eight-year-old daughter expecting a miracle. But when they pick out a Christmas tree at the Shafer tree farm, that's exactly what happens.

While Mark is less than pleased that Papa Shafer persists in blathering his "Miracle Tree nonsense" in front of customers, the unforgettable shopper and her daughter compel him to reconsider.

When an anonymous gift brings Mark and Angela together again, they must decide for themselves if they be-

lieve in miracles.

The Christmas Tree Keeper's recent release means readers can curl up this holiday season and enjoy a sweet, heartwarming romance—one that also delivers a little magic and a lot about the miracle of love and of Christmas trees.

The Christmas Tree Keeper is available at amazon.com. Visit Tamara's website at TamaraPassey.com.

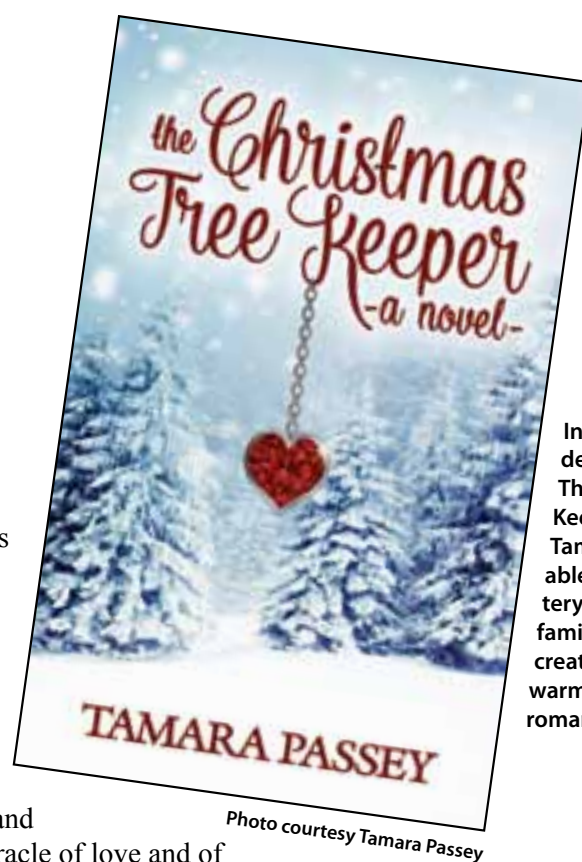


Photo courtesy Tamara Passey

In writing her debut novel, *The Christmas Tree Keeper*, author Tamara Passey was able to solve a mystery from her own family history while creating a heart-warming holiday romance.



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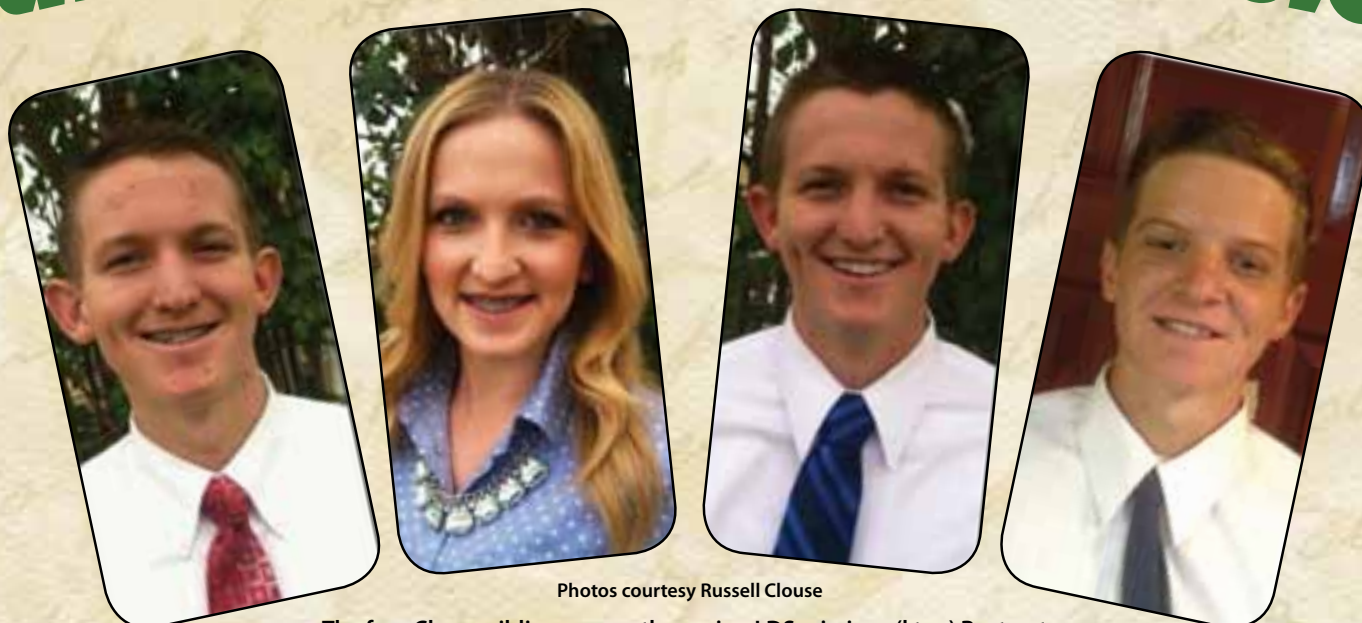
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Four Siblings Serve Missions



Photos courtesy Russell Clouse

The four Clouse siblings currently serving LDS missions (l to r) Ruston to Guatemala, Kimri to Georgia, Auston to Honduras and Redden to Peru.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

SIMULTANEOUSLY

The announcement of the change in age for missionary service set in motion a flurry of activity in the home of Russ and Shelle Clouse, of the Southern Estates Ward, Mesa Kimball Stake.

Parents of 10 children, the Clouses had already seen five leave the

nest to marry and start families of their own. With the announcement, the three oldest still at home put in their mission papers, got their calls and within a short time were serving in the mission field. A year later, a fourth left to serve in another part of the world.

“Our twins were 18 and a half in

October two years ago when the announcement was made,” says Brother Clouse. “They weren’t planning to go on missions for a while, so they still had their braces on.”

Still, two months after the announcement, the twins—Ruston and Auston—were ready to submit their

papers.

By then, “our 22-year-old daughter had come down with a bombshell,” saying she wanted to serve a mission as well. She submitted her papers in January.

Continued on pg. 31

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4 Siblings Serve Missions Continued from pg. 28

Their calls came and the three left a year ago this past June: Ruston to Guatemala, Auston to Honduras and Kimri to the Georgia Macon Mission. Just about at their one-year mark, the fourth of the Clouse siblings, Redden, graduated from high school and shortly thereafter got his call to serve in the Peru Lima Mission.

"The boys have been planning to go all their lives. Our daughter said for several months she had been feeling she should go," Brother Clouse explains. After a good friend of hers was converted and baptized, "and then several people, out of the blue, said to her, 'You should go on a mission,' and she knew it was time to pray about it."

People have asked how the Clouses have managed to outfit and keep that many missionaries in the field.

"We have a lot of faith," Brother Clouse says, "and the blessings just come. They fall in our laps."

He says they are fortunate to have several family members who contribute, and the missionaries themselves, "worked and saved enough to buy everything they needed to be outfitted and to cover the first few months they were out, so it hasn't been completely left on us."

The Clouses have enjoyed receiving weekly emails from four different countries. Brother Clouse was particularly thrilled when "Sister Clouse" was transferred to South Carolina to serve in a town called Beaufort.

"I served seven months of my mission in that same town," he says, "and she has met three families I knew well."

He and Shelle and some other family members will be traveling to pick Kimri up in January 2015. The twins will come home in June and then, before Redden returns home, it will be time for their youngest son, now a junior in high school, to serve a mission.

In the meantime, Brother and Sister Clouse enjoy serving in the Mesa East YSA Stake's Countryside Ward, where he is in the bishopric.

"We love that. It keeps us busy," he says. It also allows them to feel the missionary fervor among the young single adults.

"We had a baptism in our ward two weeks ago, and we have two or three investigators right now. These young adults are great missionary examples."

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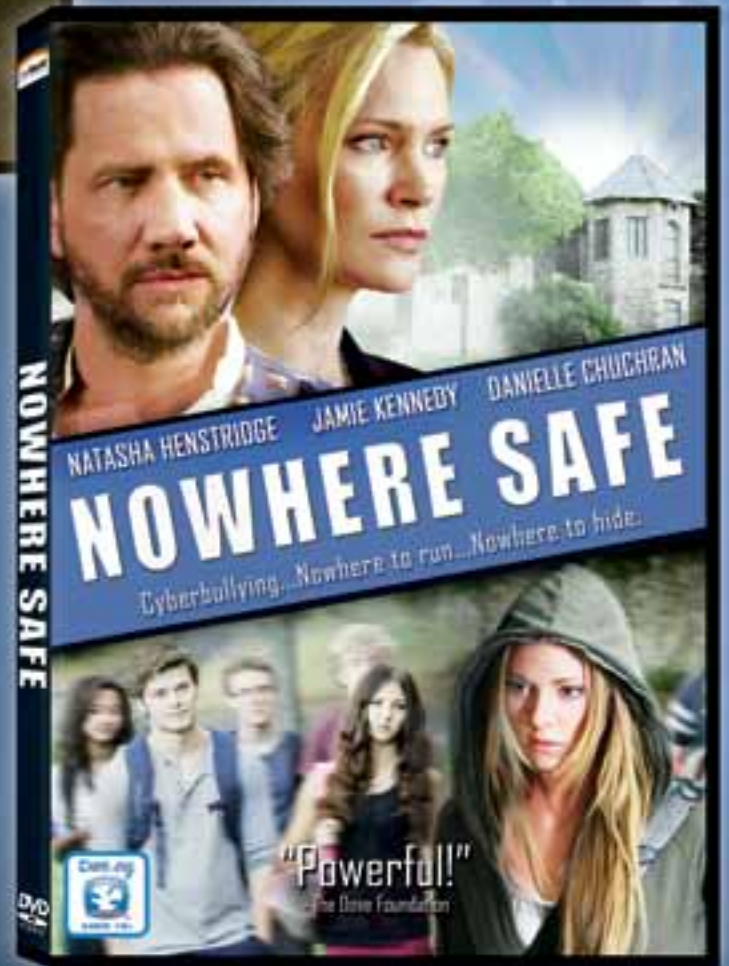
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Mesa Alma Stake Youth Take On the Challenge to Index 1 MILLION RECORDS

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Their stake presidency challenged it, their hard work achieved it and their t-shirts proclaimed it: Million And One!

Million And One, the theme for the Mesa Alma Stake Youth Conference, represented challenges issued to the young people. First, they were to index a million records between May 1 and their youth conference date of October 18.

The “And One” meant they were to: recruit one adult to help index, do one FamilySearch log in, create one fan chart, find one family name to be baptized for, and find one “pioneer” ancestor, meaning the first in a particular line to join the Church.

“They really got into the indexing

and they got adults involved as well,” says stake Young Women president, Marlene Bartlett.

Troy Parry, stake Young Men president, says, “President Pratt had set the goal and it looked like lots to do. To do a million meant about 5,000 per youth.”

“I did lay out a big goal,” admits Ron Pratt, second counselor in the stake presidency, “but I don’t believe in small goals.”

The youth enthusiastically signed up to participate and got adults to help. “We started May 1 and by September 9, we reached 1 million. By the conference, we were at 1.3 million records indexed,” Brother Parry says.

Although already commended

in a letter from the Gilbert Temple Presidency for their “remarkable accomplishments,” and recognized in the North America Southwest Area newsletter as the top indexing stake in the area, “President Pratt and our Stake President [Dennis Danielson] challenged the stake to keep going and, by year end, have an additional million,” says Brother Parry.

“The youth stretched, and they did it,” says President Pratt, adding that many accomplished the other goals as well.

William Brewer, 13, of the Mesquite Ward, says he was most excited about finding family names for temple work. “I went to the Family History Center one week before Mutual to index but

the computer didn’t have the indexing program.” So, he logged in to FamilySearch and began looking for names. “I started going every Wednesday before Mutual,” William says. “It took a while, but I found five names and I was baptized for them.”

“I really felt like I had helped somebody,” William says. “Now, I’m talking to my parents about doing baptisms with me every six weeks or so.”

The youth culminated their several weeks of family history and indexing work with a conference, beginning Friday night with a food drive, get-to-know-you games, workshops and a service project to decorate bags that will

Continued on pg. 33



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

As part of their “Million And One” Youth Conference, after participating in a massive family history effort, including completing a challenge to index one million records between May 1 and October 17, more than 200 Young Men and Young Women from the Mesa Alma Stake walked 13.1 miles, ending up at the Gilbert Arizona Temple.

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be used for sack lunches to feed those in need during the holidays. The youth were divided into walking groups and each group given a different color t-shirt for a 13.1-mile walk to the Gilbert Temple the next morning.

Hunter Young, 17, of Keating Ward, says, "Two fellow priests in my ward and I had already decided we would go to the temple every month until leaving for our missions, and we have gone twice already."

Still, he says, "I liked walking and getting to know kids younger than me, who I otherwise would never have met or talked to," and he believes the walk was helpful, especially for youth who are struggling, to see: "You can work to physically get to the temple, so do the work to spiritually get there as well."

The entire experience, "increased my testimony of the temple a lot," says Katelyn Noble, 17. "I definitely feel more appreciative to have one so close. I have a greater appreciation of what we can do for people who didn't have the opportunity to have these ordinances in their lifetime."

"I think the youth learned they could do hard things and that the goal of the temple and of being worthy to enter the temple, is worth keeping in the forefront," says Sister Bartlett. "A lot of youth recognized that and it was very rewarding."

Bestselling Author, Brandon Mull to be **KEYNOTE SPEAKER** at "Time Out for Writers" Conference

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Brandon Mull, New York Times bestselling author, will be the keynote speaker at the national writers' conference, "Time Out for Writers," hosted by the American Night Writers Association (ANWA) in Mesa, February 19 – 21, 2015.

Mull is author of Fablehaven, Beyonders, the Five Kingdoms Series and Candy Shop Wars. His books are published in over 30 languages, and he has visited over 2,000 schools in 38 states and around the world. "My farthest school visit was to Moscow, Russia," he says.

In addition to the conference keynote, Mull will teach a class on "The Writing Advice I'd Give My Best Friend." In it, he will share candid advice on all aspects of publishing, from getting that first book published, to building a successful career, to keeping yourself sane during the process.

Mull served an LDS mission to Antofagasta, Chile, and currently lives in Utah with his wife and children.

The ANWA Time Out for Writers

Conference is a 2½ day conference for writers of all levels, beginner to best-seller. It is open to the general public. Development for Educator Licensing for teachers is available.

"Anyone young or old with a desire to write a story, a novel, professional, for publication or even their family history will find classes to help them at the conference," says Peggy Urry, ANWA Executive President.

World-class workshops will be taught by other award-winning authors and industry professionals, including John Rudolph of Dystel & Goderich Literary, Pam Van Hylckama Vlieg of D4EO Literary Agency, Lisa Mangum of Shadow Mountain, McKenna Gardner of Xchylar Publishing, Heather Moore of Precision Editing Group, author and poet Regina Sirois, author and editor, Penny Freeman, million-seller Janette Rallison, and fan favorites, Sarah M. Eden, Julie Wright, Liz Adair, Betty Webb, Kelly Oram, Laurie Schnebly Campbell and Tanya Parker Mills.

Registration for the February con-



Photo courtesy Brandon Mull

New York Times bestselling author, Brandon Mull, will present the keynote address at the "Time Out for Writers" Conference hosted by the American Night Writers Association in Mesa in February 2015.

ference is now open. Space is limited. For more information visit: www.anwa-lds.com/events/conference

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New CD Teaches How to Change Detrimental Patterns

Five years ago, as a recently divorced single mother, Victoria Lee Carlyle, of the Bella Vista Ward, Higley Stake, evaluated her prospects for creating income without having to compromise her children's needs.

"I realized that the true gift I have to offer is the empathy and unique understanding I have for the struggles of life."

She began to assemble what she knew about change and about overcoming detrimental emotional patterns and formed her company, Transformational Life Skills.

Then, in 2011, "I was given the opportunity to take what I had been doing one-one-one with individuals and implement it in a larger way when Judge Mark Anderson asked me to write and facilitate The Power to Change Training in the Mesa

court system."

The training "helps people have a better understanding of why they think, act and feel the way they do," she says. "I believe every person, with proper knowledge and new skills, can overcome challenges that may otherwise limit happiness and spiritual growth."

To share these powerful principles outside her classes, Victoria produced a CD called The Power to Change. The CD (\$14.95, includes shipping) and a digital download (\$9.95) are available at thevictimaddiction.com. Also, site visitors can download a free a four-step process that Victoria says, "will give you the conscious ability to control your emotional reactions and access your personal power." Victoria's book, The Victim Addiction will be available in early 2015.

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IN THE MOMMY ZONE...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

Time for a Mother & Son Reunion

A few short weeks ago, we made quite a special trip. I was nervous as I dressed in my Sunday best for the extraordinary occasion. My stomach flip-flopped as we traveled, my anxiety transforming into undeniable excitement.

Finally, we pulled into a sprawling L.D.S. church parking lot, wondering if we had charted the correct course. As I stood blinking in the brilliant sunlight, I spied a suited blur running towards me at full speed.

Before I had the chance to realize what was happening, that suited blur was lifting me off the ground in a much anticipated bear hug. I quickly recognized who was embracing me. I spied his curly strawberry-blond hair and recognized his piercing joyful laughter.

The last two years melted away in a flood of emotion as I stood, warmly embracing my 21-year-old son. My mind gushed with tender memories and tears freely flowed as I peered into the eyes of my missionary son, whom I had not seen in 24 months.

He looked older, more mature. He had definitely filled out physically while serving a mission, but behind that masculine exterior, I recognized that twinkle in his eye, the one that melted this mother's heart time and time again.

He had an aura about him that was palpable, one that shrouded him in confidence, strength, and wisdom. He sure looked like my son, but he was different somehow. He spoke with assurance, sincerity, and grace and seemed genuinely happy in his service.

He introduced us to the mission office staff and we marveled at his charisma and humble authority. They told us how much they appreciated and treasured our son as a worthy, hard-working missionary. I was stunned at their camaraderie and compassion for him.

Our son proudly wore his missionary name badge as we traveled around town and into the next. He introduced us to many beloved friends and fellow ward members. He took us to an apartment where he had lived, studied the Gospel, exercised, organized hundreds of lesson plans, received inspiration, and even learned how to strum a ukelele.

We visited the beloved farm house and accompanying trailer where he stayed for several transfers, touring the exquisite beauties of nature surround-

ing this idyllic homestead, discovering the chicken coop he'd mucked out a few months earlier.

We joyfully met a family he had baptized. I was humbled at the tender feelings of compassion my son shared with these special people. I heard tale after tale of tender teaching moments, growing spiritual experiences, and of his benevolent service rendered. I thought my heart would burst.

I had waited for this day for two long years. I had envisioned, time and

time again, retrieving our missionary son on the final day of his service. We spent his glorious concluding day exactly as I had pictured, except for one thing...

I felt bittersweet about his mission homecoming. For so long, I'd been looking forward to finally bringing him home. He had served faithfully and honorably. But, as I stood gazing upon him, marveling at his transformation from boy to man, realizing what amazing works he had accomplished, know-

ing that his blessed time of service was drawing to a close, I felt selfish.

He wanted to continue as a missionary, but I wanted him home, mission accomplished.

We both learned an important lesson that fateful day, that timing is vital. There's a time and a season for everything, especially for newly released missionaries and their mothers. We just have to discover the timetable that's destined for each of us, for it will reveal our greatest life works yet.

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Family Allergy Clinic has High Success Rates with **No-Shots Allergy Treatment**

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Growing up on an Idaho farm, Dr. Stuart Agren suffered miserably with hay fever. When he opened the Family Allergy Clinic in Mesa in the mid-1980s, he wanted to go beyond the status quo.

"The options at the time were not great," says Dr. Agren, "and many people suffered with their allergies rather than facing the hassles of treatment."

Allergy pills like antihistamines had unwanted side effects and only worked short term. Allergy shots were a long-term fix, but people often grew tired of driving to the doctor's office a couple

times a week for injections so would drop off the shots.

Dr. Agren learned about a treatment widely used in Europe called sublingual immunotherapy or SLIT. It worked a lot like allergy shots, but instead of being injected, the antigen was taken under the tongue and absorbed into the bloodstream through special cells in the mouth. Because SLIT was safer than shots, it could be taken at home.

Wanting to introduce the treatment to his own patients, Dr. Agren became one of the first U.S. doctors to

prescribe SLIT. Now, nearly 30 years later, he has relieved over 15,000 patients of allergy symptoms using the treatment.

"About 85 percent of my allergic patients and 90 percent of asthmatics experience symptom relief within the first few months," says Dr. Agren. "Those are very high numbers in this field, and one big reason is that the treatment is really easy to stick with. You simply squeeze a few drops of allergy serum under your tongue each

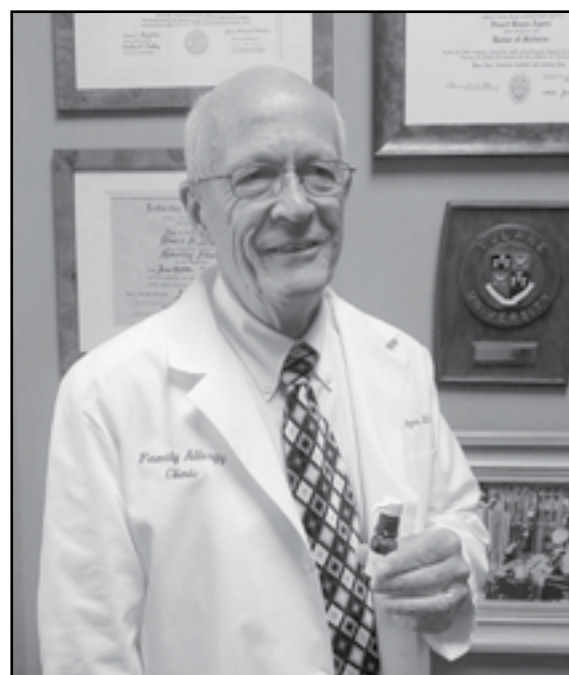


Photo courtesy Stacy DeLange

Mesa doctor, Stuart H. Agren was the first U.S. doctor to introduce SLIT, the no-shots, under the tongue allergy treatment. Now, 30 years later, he has offered this effective allergy relief to more than 15,000 patients, including food-allergy sufferers he now treats with a no-shots serum he developed.

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day."

Plus, "Because our serum is so comprehensive, it protects against new allergens that may blow into town," says Dr. Agren. "It also protects against allergens people may not have reacted to in testing but will definitely react to in nature."

Dr. Agren recently developed an under-the-tongue serum, which can treat for allergies to nearly 60 different food items, including milk, eggs, wheat, soy, rice, and fruits and vegetables.

After 30 years, Dr. Agren continues to enjoy his work as an allergist.

"I recently treated a retired Air Force officer who was a national competitor in senior master track and field," says Dr. Agren. "He had been totally incapacitated by adult-onset asthma for two years."

After seeing dozens of doctors and

Continued on pg. 37



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Family Allergy Clinic
Continued from pg. 36

Do you have allergies?

Here are some of the most common symptoms:

- Sneezing
- Watery or itchy eyes
- Runny or stuffed-up nose
- Chronic sinusitis
- Asthma
- Frequent ear infections
- Hives and eczema
- Respiratory effects (continual colds, chronic cough, frequent bronchitis)
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Nasal polyps
- Muscle and joint pain
- Fatigue

feeling like a “walking pharmacy” with all the medications he had taken, he sought treatment from Dr. Agren and was symptom-free in just a couple months.

“Allergies may not affect the quantity of life, but they sure do affect the quality,” says Dr. Agren. “Being able to restore that quality of life gives me a very high degree of job satisfaction.”

For information about no-shots allergy treatment for food and pollen allergies, contact the Family Allergy Clinic. (480) 827-9945, info@familyallergyclinic.com.

Church Continues to Monitor and Respond to Ebola Situation

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints shares in the growing concern across the world about the Ebola virus and is monitoring the situation carefully. Below is an update on how the Church is responding.

In Sierra Leone, the Church is working with International Medical Corps to provide a local hospital with medical clothing and supplies to help care for patients. The Church continues to work through recognized relief organizations and on-the-ground partners to help communities in need.

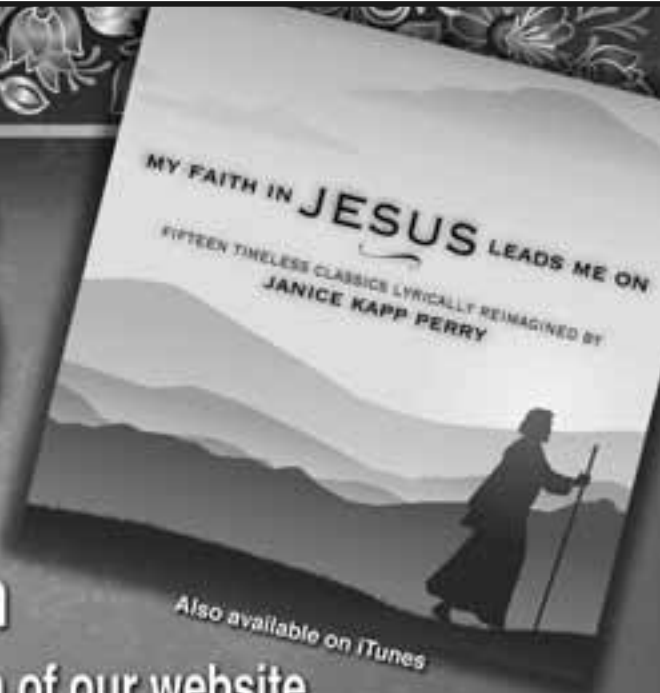
Church members in all areas are being encouraged to follow the health

guidelines and recommendations given by local health officials.

In Sierra Leone and Liberia, the Church has provided its members with sanitation supplies, along with basic instruction materials that help teach sanitation. The Church has provided a two-month supply of food to members, some of whom are in quarantined areas, and to others in need. In many cases, members have shared these food supplies with extended family and neighbors.

Many members have also volunteered their own time to help spread awareness of proper sanitation practices throughout communities.

Missionary safety is a top priority. In areas where there is an increased potential for cases of Ebola, the Church has asked mission presidents to train missionaries in precautions they should take to avoid and prevent the spread of the disease. These include common sense measures and also more specific guidelines about contact with other people, symptoms to watch for and how to avoid situations with higher risk. The Church will continue to work with mission leaders and local members to evaluate these circumstances and, when necessary, will take steps to further protect missionaries from areas where their safety is in question.



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Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Truth and Love; The Greatest Parental Conundrum

Our kids are growing up in a different world. Really, really different. If they follow the Lord and His prophets, they don't fit in with most of their peers. It's a tough one for them since the adolescent years are known to be peer driven.

Then, mom and dad also become "strangers," often no longer the driving force in kids' lives. It's not something fully understood, but we trust it's the Lord's plan (allowing the natural man his way). Breaking away from the nest is not a new phenomenon, but it's nearly always traumatic.

Thus the tug of war between traditions and beliefs often tear parents and kids apart as another generation, uninterested in learning wisdom from those who have gone before, sets out to

search for the Holy Grail (the truth).

Today's world offers up extreme arguments regarding truth. What's real, and what's God, gets lost somewhere in political correctness and the new morality that includes no morality at all, e.g., co-habitation, gay marriage, decline in worship.

And the big questions: Do parents defer to the kids in order to show love, or do they defer to hard-earned knowledge that God's way is the ultimate way? Often, the latter way results in the fracture of relationships that are so precious.

More than a dozen years ago, President Thomas S. Monson, then in the First Presidency, warned of the deadly road of following error: "We do not find truth groveling through error. Truth

is found by searching, studying and living the revealed word of God. We adopt error when we mingle with error. We learn truth when we associate with truth."

Plain and simple: God's Love is truth in action, not necessarily warm and fuzzy feelings traditionally equated with love. See 1 John 3:18, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and truth."

So, sincere parents travel that road of finding the truth of love. Sometimes it can be subjective—but always can be confirmed by the Holy Spirit as we listen.

Today's political correctness hides real truth and can require us to ignore our moral compass to get along with folks. Families are being torn apart by

this dilemma and the Church, itself, is scrambling to find solutions in order to honor, yet save the Lord's children.

Is it love if we skip truth in order to get along? Must we choose between God and His children in making so-called love happen?

Scriptures report many generations of parents have struggled with this dilemma. We can and will learn from them, but clearly bending to certain trends and demands of the day will not serve our posterity.

In October, class studies included the first two greatest commandments: Loving God and loving one another. How do we do that when truth is abandoned?

The call for families to get this figured out has never been greater.



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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

Dedication Times Three

This year, I've had a unique opportunity—one that will most likely not happen again in my lifetime. I've attended the dedicatory services of three temples. Three. In a year.

I had joined with others around the world to watch the historic broadcast as President Gordon B. Hinckley dedicated the rebuilt Nauvoo Illinois Temple. That was in June of 2002. Then, almost eight years later, on May 23, 2010, I witnessed the dedication of the Gila Valley Temple.

Fast forward another four years and, in March 2014, I left my Mesa home, traveled to Tucson and there, with my daughter, watched the Gilbert Arizona Temple dedication. (Makes sense to me! Isn't it amazing how technology allows us to do things that previously would have seemed totally illogical?)

On September 20, I attended a conference in Provo, Utah. When it ended on Friday evening, I drove north to visit my daughter who lives in Ogden, on what, it turns out, was the day of their Cultural Celebration followed by the rededication of the totally remodeled Ogden Utah Temple. Having lived in Ogden for 13 years, I was excited to know that serendipity had worked so wonderfully as to put me there for the dedication.

And then, just a little less than two months later, it was time for the dedication of the Phoenix Temple. And that makes three. Three marvelous opportunities to reverently celebrate, ponder and rejoice. Three opportunities to consider the process of dedication, of turning a carefully constructed edifice over to the Lord, of consecrating all

that happens there—to Him, and of asking that His blessing, his protection and his loving guidance be ever-present and apparent.

This time, in this most recent dedication, I recognized yet another opportunity.

In contemplating the dedication and all that led up to it, I thought "Now, after months, even years of preparation, of being carefully crafted so it could be most-perfectly presented, This House is Dedicated to the Lord."

And, then, of course the clincher came. It came in the form of a question that went a little like this: "This new House is dedicated to the Lord ... am I dedicated to this House?" Am I what Webster's would call "committed to a purpose," which, in this case would be the purpose of furthering the work of

salvation and of partaking in the rich blessings that come from serving in the House of the Lord.

Am I dedicated? Well, of course, the immediate answer is "No, not completely, not flawlessly committed, not wholly dedicated." And yet, on second thought, if you consider the true meaning of dedication, what then? Dedication means perseverance, persistence, tenacity—of getting up and doing it again when you fall short and of doing a little better the next time.

This House—these three new Houses—are dedicated to the Lord, and, yes, in my faltering and yet determined way, I am dedicated to this House and to the glorious blessings it promises for me and for my family.



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THE DUTTONS

Return to Arizona, Bringing Their “Best of Branson” Show and Nashville Headliner, Billy Dean

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Seven is a very lucky number for entertainment lovers across the metro Phoenix area. As luck would have it, the world-renowned Dutton family will leave Branson, Missouri, and return to Arizona for their seventh season of winter performances in their East Mesa theater.

The Duttons will again bring with them their well-honed talent and extensive classical training, all packed into an energetic, multi-faceted show that won “Best of Branson” and features three generations singing, dancing and fiddling their way through an array of musical genres, including bluegrass, blues, swing and rock.

That they are able to do this for the seventh year actually has nothing to do with luck, says family matriarch and show performer, Sheila Dutton. Instead, it’s due in large part to faith and prayers, including many from the Arizona community.

Last year, The Duttons modified their Mesa schedule, as the youngest, four-year-old Josiah, son of singer and violinist Amy, was being treated for leukemia at St. Jude’s Pediatric Cancer Center in Springfield, Missouri. Ironically, around the same time, the eldest, patriarch Dean Dutton, was diagnosed with a malignancy and received treatment at Scottsdale’s Mayo Clinic.

Their creative director, Nanci Wudel, of Mesa, says both Josiah and Dean are doing well. “The Duttons are deeply grateful to the people of Arizona who expressed great support during that difficult time,” Nanci says.

Although Josiah is still receiving treatment, Sheila says, “Our family has great faith, and the power of prayer is a reality for us. We have seen miracles realized through prayer, especially the prayers of our friends.”

With their own audience-pleasing show, this season’s schedule includes concerts by Nashville-based Grammy-award-winning artist, Billy Dean. A country music legend, Dean’s eight studio albums account for more than 20 hit singles on the *Billboard* country charts, including 11 Top Ten hits.

The Duttons will perform their “Best of Branson” show Thursday through Saturday December 13 through April 4. Billy Dean’s shows are slated for weeknights, January through March.

The Duttons are excited to include Dean’s show in their lineup and look forward to new performances of



Photo courtesy The Duttons

The Duttons return to Arizona for the seventh year running to perform their “Best of Branson” show in their East Mesa theater during their winter season, December through April. The season will also include concerts by Nashville headliner, Billy Dean.

their own in 2015. Well familiar with performing to a range of international audiences, The Duttons have toured throughout the world and have appeared on television in Italy, France and China; twice on PBS and as Top Ten finalists on NBC’s “America’s Got Talent.”

Now, May 23, 2015, they will set sail on The Duttons Fan Cruise, a seven-day Royal Caribbean cruise, including a private concert exclusively for their fans. (Call Webb Tours at 800-658-8519 for details.)

The Dutton Theater Mesa is located at East Valley High School, 7420 East Main Street, Mesa (Sun Valley Plaza). For information or tickets for “An Evening with Billy Dean” or for The Duttons show, call 480-840-6874 or visit www.theduttons.com.



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DOWNEAST OUTFITTERS

Offers Appealing Styles at Appealing Prices

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

With a great idea and business model that worked well for them as students at Brigham Young University, brothers William, Charles and Jonathon Freedman went from selling name brand clothing out of the back of their cars to co-founding DownEast Outfitters.

From buying and selling customer returns and liquidations, they progressed to creating their own DownEast Basics private label, to redesigning and opening more stores in Utah, then to expanding into other western states, all while maintaining their commitment to offering stylish apparel at affordable prices.

Knowing Arizonans would appreciate their appealing styles and equally appealing prices, DownEast Outfitters viewed Arizona as “a great market for what we do,” says Rich Israelsen, Chief Operating Officer. Israelsen, a long-time friend and former mission companion to one of the brothers, has been with the company since its beginnings.

He says DownEast Outfitters, now

with 60 stores, opened its first in Arizona six years ago. Since then, they have added seven more stores across the Valley and the recently opened Goodyear store brings the total to nine. Two of them—at San Tan Village and at Power and Southern in Mesa—are Home and Clothing Stores, featuring clothing and the DownEast line of smartly priced home furnishing as well.

“We think our brand really is perfect for Arizona,” says Lisa Deets, Regional Manager, who started with the company seven years ago. “It’s modern, new, fresh and exciting—the perfect style for all women—and it doesn’t break the budget.”

Whether carefully selected national brands or items from the DownEast Basics line, they are “timeless, consistent, modest styles that accentuate women’s confidence and make them feel good,” says Israelsen.

Known, in particular, for layering pieces, such as tees and camis and for “dressier” items including tops, skirts



Photo courtesy Lisa Deets

Known for its appealing styles at appealing prices, DownEast Outfitters recently opened a store in Goodyear, bringing the total to nine in Arizona, including the store in San Tan Village (pictured above) which is one of two Arizona stores that carries reasonably priced home furnishings in addition to the DownEast line of fresh and exiting clothing and accessories.

and dresses, DownEast also features all the accessories—from socks and tights, to scarves, bags, belts and jewelry.

DownEast features apparel for all age groups, including 20- to 30-year-olds, teens and their Penny Candy boutique line for ages 2 to 12, Deets adds.

“We are particularly pumped up and ready for the holiday season,” she continues. “We have a lot of lace, a lot of shimmer, cute jackets to pair with skirts and great denim and casual items as well. We have a whole new line of beautiful accessories for the holidays,

specially designed to be partnered with our clothing items—and priced for guilt-free holiday shopping,” Deets says.

“Plus,” she says, “we have really aggressive promotions running all through the holidays.”

To sign up for emailed specials, go to www.downeastoutfitters.com. To receive text messages with special offers, text DOWNEAST to 33733. Also visit www.downeastoutfitters.com to learn about in-store specials or to shop online.

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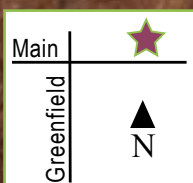
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Castle Floors

Serving the Valley for 30 years

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Castle Floors has long been an icon in the east valley. Owned by Dean and Peggy Merrell of the Century Garden Ward in the Mesa Kimball East Stake, Castle Floors specializes in carpet sales and installation, ceramic and porcelain tile, travertine, stone, vinyl, wood floors and laminates.

Dean's love of flooring stems from his employment doing carpet and furniture cleaning while a student at Brigham Young University.

Brother Merrell started 30 years ago with hard work and focused attention to the customers' needs, added his foresight and ability to keep pace with trends and has succeeded in building a company that customers recognize for superior personal service and product.

Originally called Castle Carpets, they upgraded the name of the business to support the trends and reflect the addition of more hard surface variety flooring. Castle Floors has continued to bring on new flooring and is always thinking into the future.

Dean says, "The current trend in flooring has expanded so much from

carpeting...we've been watching this explosion in luxury vinyl right now, and we've already been selling it for about 20 years."

They have also noticed a rise in real wood flooring in recent years. "It's become more affordable because so much of it is being made in China," says Dean. "They're making some high-grade products with European and Scandinavian technology. Wood is being manufactured at such lower prices than ever before, it's just hard to resist."

Dean insists that even with the trend to hard flooring, carpet will never go away. "Carpet is too nice of a surface. It is soft, comfortable, and it's quiet. That's why it will always remain."

Even though the business began in the '80s during a recession, Castle Floors grew as it focused on remodels and fix ups. This focus has been to the company's advantage through the years and during the most recent recession as well.

Dean says, "I'm surprised at how deep and long this last building slump has been, but remodels have remained



Photo by Stacy Johnson

Owner Dean Merrell and the entire staff at Castle Floors boast remarkable product knowledge and offer attentive service as they help customers explore the many flooring options.

steady."

He says Castle Floors employees, with their years of combined experience and considerable training, contribute remarkable personal attention and product knowledge as they help customers understand the various options for new construction and remodels.

Dean says his customer base remains constant with former customers

returning years later to update their flooring as well as ongoing referrals from their many satisfied customers over the years.

Castle Floors is located at 4500 East Main Street, #3, in Mesa. Their showroom is open Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To reach Castle Floors, call 480-396-6956.



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THE GOULD GROUP

Brings Expertise and Experience in an Ever Changing Market

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The Gould Group, award-winning realtors, includes the dynamic mother-daughter team of Penny Gould and Shannon Vowles. Their business is largely driven by referrals, a testament to the value they bring their clients.

With the changes in the Arizona real estate market over the past years, The Gould Group has helped buyers and sellers adapt.

"The economic downturn has tragically impacted far too many families. The once-large inventory of short sales and bank-owned properties has significantly decreased. Many homeowners have once again found equity in their homes," Penny says. "Although homeowners have seen significant gains over the last few years, we are currently experiencing a buyers' market. Listings remain on the market longer and prices have slightly decreased. Savvy buyers are able to take advantage of these market shifts."

"While buyers have this unique opportunity, sellers need to price their homes realistically and respond to

showing feedback they receive. We are approaching the holiday season when many homebuyers delay purchasing until after the new year. The buyers currently shopping are serious, and it's critical to listen to their feedback," Shannon added.

The Gould Group helps buyers and sellers navigate through the ever-changing real estate market. They are dedicated to maximizing profits for sellers, and assisting buyers in one of the biggest purchases of their lifetime. Home seller Ann Marie Pendl says, "I had my home for-sale-by-owner for over four months without an offer. After listing it with The Gould Group, we sold it in just hours for more than what I was asking. I know they're one of the top realtors in the East Valley but they made me feel like I was their only client. I not only found great Realtors, but great friends as well; they're fantastic!"

The Gould Group, members of the Southeast Valley Regional Association of Realtors, also continues to be a leader in the luxury home and land markets. Continuously acknowledged

for her dedication, Penny received the Keller Williams Values & Ethics award, was nominated for Keller Williams Cultural Icon Award, and designated a "Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist" and member of the Graduate REALTOR® Institute (GRI).

Though consistently recognized for their knowledge and ethics, they say most rewarding for them is winning the trust and confidence of their many clients.

Shannon says, "Today's market is extremely stressful. Whether it's the high competition sellers are experiencing, or the sometimes frustrating lending process buyers are navigating, we try to be sensitive to these issues and work hard to provide the best customer service. We want our clients to have the best experience possible whether buying or selling their home."

Caron Lloyd, one of The Gould Group's clients comments, "We can-

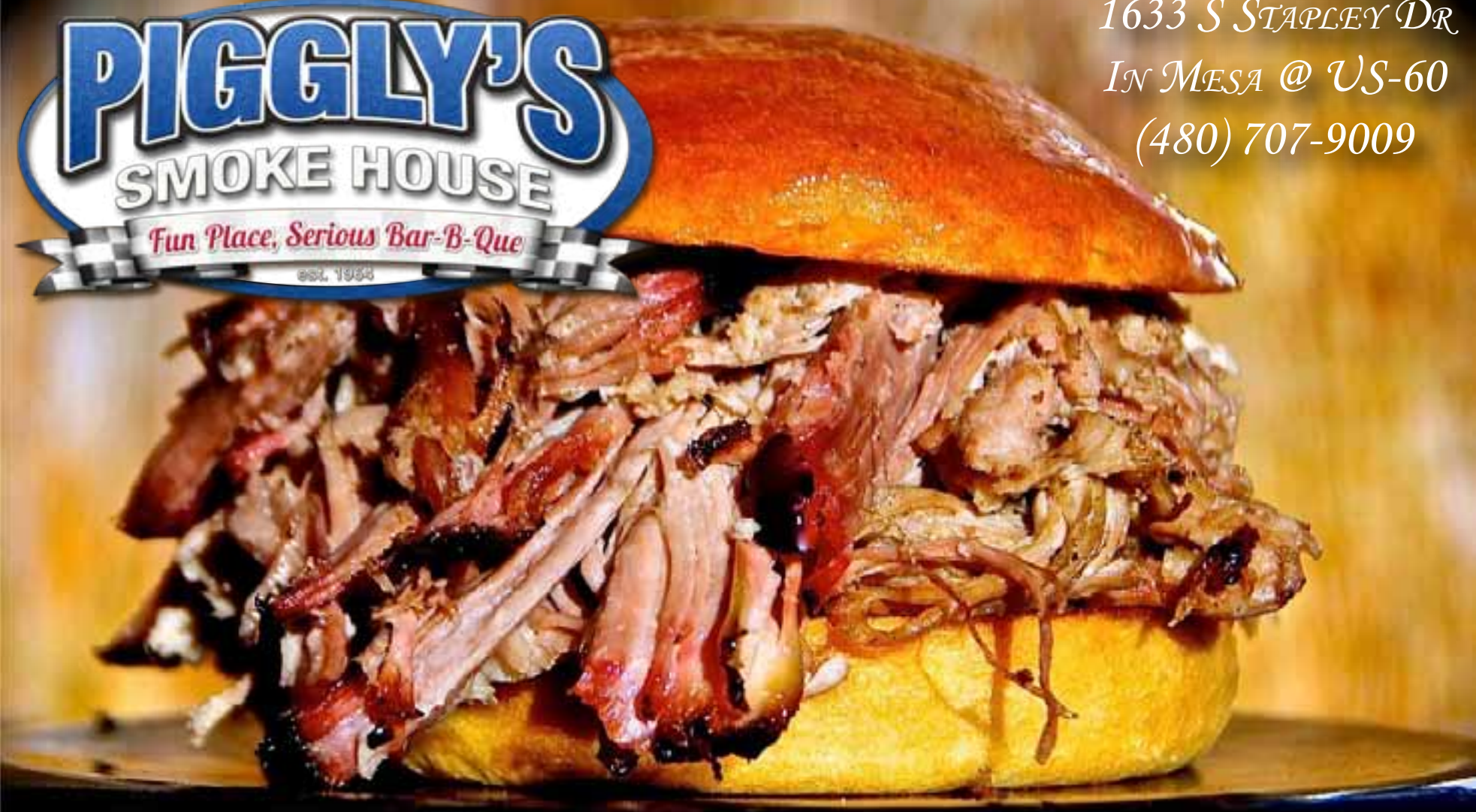
not thank you enough for helping us through the sale of our home. Your incredible communication skills, patience, and endurance kept us going. We will recommend you to anyone going through the buying/selling process because you are the best!"

For more information about the current real estate market, call The Gould Group at 480-600-3663 or visit www.TheGouldGroup.org.



Photo by Carol Cefalu

The Gould Group, made up of the mother-daughter team of Penny Gould and Shannon Vowles, are award-winning realtors, who help buyers and sellers navigate the constantly changing Arizona real estate market.



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Single Adult Service Project Provides Gifts for 17,000 Children in Need

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Hundreds of young adults from the Mesa East YSA Stake got into the Christmas spirit early, spending Monday nights in November working in assembly-line fashion to fill huge Christmas stockings for children in need.

By the end of the month, they had filled 17,000 stockings with shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper and other hygiene items as well as specific items for boys' stockings and lotions, perfumes, hair items and nail polish in stockings for girls.

"These stockings will go to needy Indian Reservations in outlying areas. Most of these children wouldn't receive anything for Christmas, so this is a great service for them," says Heather Sandstrom, counselor in the stake Relief Society presidency, and whose husband, Paul, is the stake

president.

She says the project was organized by National Relief Charities, "a non-profit organization dedicated to quality of life for Native Americans living on remote and poverty-stricken reservations in the Plains and Southwest" whose stated mission is "serving immediate needs" and "supporting long-term solutions."

Each of the seven wards in the stake was assigned to provide the manpower for two Monday-night shifts at a large warehouse in Phoenix, where items donated by various companies were stored.

"There would be 100 to 200 young adults working as fast as they could. Anytime someone ran out of something in the assembly line, they would call out," and runners would quickly replenish that item, Sister Sandstrom says. "It



Photo by Kim Rogers

Young adults from the Mesa East YSA Stake worked in shifts every Monday night during November to assemble 17,000 stockings filled with hygiene items and gifts for children in need.

was amazing to see these young adults work so hard. It's been a wonderful experience to work side by side with hundreds of single adults every Monday night to put these together."

In a similar project with National Relief Charities, using supplies provided with funds from the Church, 36,000 book bags were assembled as part of the regional single adult conference in January. "They were so grateful, and said they found, when the kids got these book bags, they took ownership for their education and did better in school," Sister Sandstrom says.

She says the Mesa East YSA Stake

will participate in additional service projects before Christmas, including collecting items for JaKelle's Christmas Box, the holiday gift program for Helen's Hope Chest, which looks to provide gifts for approximately 1,800 children in foster homes this year. The young adults will collect items throughout the season, including at their annual choir and orchestra fireside. The Mesa East YSA Stake will also perform free concerts at the Mesa Temple Christmas Lights and the Voices of Christmas concert at the Mesa Arts Center December 18.

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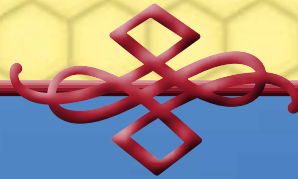
November 24, 2014 — February 23, 2015 Issue



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DEDICATED *to the* LORD

The dedication of the Phoenix Temple on November 16, brings the total number of temples in Arizona to five. Worldwide, the Phoenix Temple is the 144th operating temple.

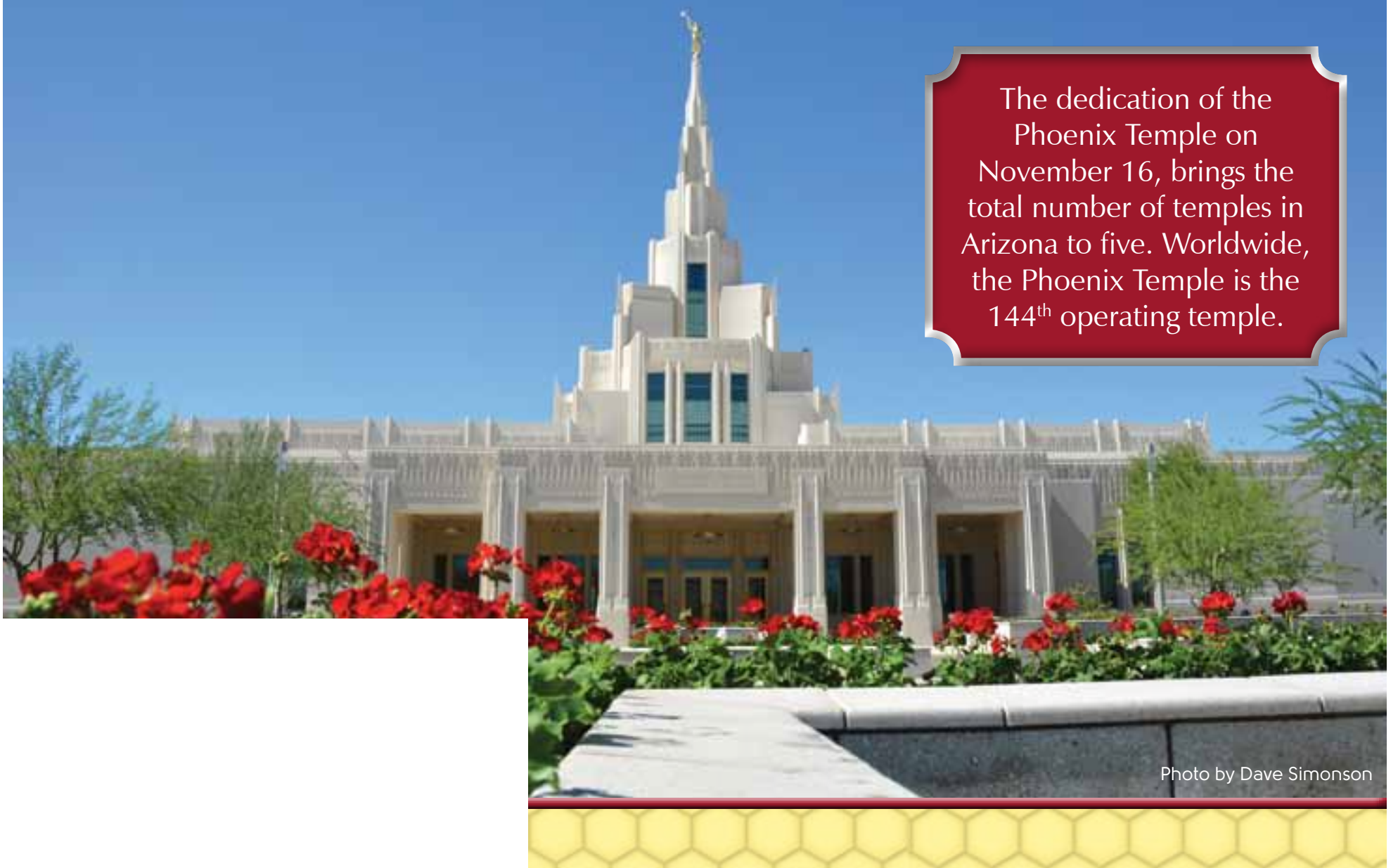


Photo by Dave Simonson